

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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## IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 21 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for September 2004 totaled 38.1 million pounds, down 21 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. September production was up 24 percent from August's 30.7 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-September 2004 period totaled 336 million pounds, down 24 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in September, down 3 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in September 2003. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.74 million head, down 13 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was up 38 pounds from the previous year, at 1,266 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 15 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,300 head, down 18 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was 13 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.00 million head, 5 percent above September 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 243,600 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago. January to September 2004 commercial red meat production was 33.8 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.